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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Monopoly Settlements

I would like to comment on the Microsoft Monopoly law suits currently in the settlement phase.

It is my option that:

1> Microsoft has used un-ethical business practices in the past years to gain and keep a monopoly on certain areas of the software industry. These practices include the original Windows that competed against the windowing software that IBM paid Microsoft to write in the first place, the planned incompatibility of Windows with DR DOS, the Netscape Browser conflict, to the current Windows and Microsoft Office monopolies that they have today. This is not good business and is not beneficial to the software developer workforce or the end user, only for Microsoft.

2> Any time you have an alternative to a Microsoft product, it is always a better product, with better customer and developer support. Microsoft has charged many users for customer support where this support actually helped to improve their product.

3> Microsoft has repeatedly broken the anti-trust rules and should be punished for their disregard for the law; not just told "don't do it again" like they have been told in the past. They knew they were breaking the rules and didn't care. They need to be held responsible for their actions.

4> Microsoft has repeatedly walked away from standards meetings where software developers can agree on how programs will interact. These standards are important to provide the user with a choice of which software module they want to buy. Without these common standards, Microsoft is able to hold and build their majority market share as well as extend it to new products.

5> The end users and the nation's economy benefit from choices. Choices are what make better products and better products make more productive end users.

Any settlement must include:

punishment for past actions (not access to new markets like schools, but stiff monetary penalties)
Open Source Code and Strict Standards to allow any other company to interface at the same level as Microsoft is able to (equal access).

Microsoft should be broken into several companies so they can't continue to extend their existing monopolies into other areas.

It is your job to protect the end users and other companies. Don't let Microsoft bully the Justice system like they have the rest of the country. It has been a long road to get to this point. Don't let the chance slip by and do nothing (or worse, give them a stronger position). Take a strong position and give the country a future!

Thanks for you time.

Mike Myhre

